Minute No. 260
Report – Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks – March 7, 2016 (reconvened March 10 and 11, 2016)

Item No. 1 Agreement between Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service and Department of National Defense for Radio System Interoperability

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks and adopted the following:

1. That The City of Winnipeg enter into, execute and deliver an Agreement with the Department of National Defense (DND) 17 Wing base to allow for radio interoperability with the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service (WFPS).

2. That authority be delegated to the Chief Administrative Officer to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions of the Agreement, in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in this report and such other terms and conditions deemed necessary by the Director of Legal Services and City Solicitor to protect the interests of the City.

3. That authority be delegated to the Chief Administrative Officer to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions of all future agreements made by the WFPS with external agencies for radio interoperability purposes, in accordance with terms and conditions similar to those set forth herein and such other terms and conditions deemed necessary by the Director of Legal Services and City Solicitor to protect the interests of the City.

3. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks – March 7 (reconvened March 10 and 11, 2016)

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Pagtakhan,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks be adopted by consent.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On March 16, 2016, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks and submitted the matter to Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On March 11, 2016, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: **AGREEMENT BETWEEN WINNIPEG FIRE PARAMEDIC SERVICE AND DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE FOR RADIO SYSTEM INTEROPERABILITY**

Critical Path: **Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks - Executive Policy Committee - Council**

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO/COO
M. Bergstrom	J. Lane	n/a	M. Jack COO

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That The City of Winnipeg enter into, execute and deliver an Agreement with the Department of National Defense (DND) 17 Wing base to allow for radio interoperability with the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service (WFPS).

2. That authority be delegated to the Chief Administrative Officer to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions of the Agreement, in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in this report and such other terms and conditions deemed necessary by the City Solicitor / Director of Legal Services to protect the interests of the City.

3. That authority be delegated to the Chief Administrative Officer to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions of all future agreements made by the WFPS with external agencies for radio interoperability purposes**,** in accordance with terms and conditions similar to those set forth herein and such other terms and conditions deemed necessary by the City Solicitor / Director of Legal Services to protect the interests of the City.

3. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

REASON FOR THE REPORT

Council approval is required to enter into an Agreement between the City of Winnipeg and DND for the purpose of radio interoperability.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The DND and WFPS Communications entered into an informal agreement for access on the WFPS FleetNet radio system talk groups for the purposes of interoperability in 2003.

The new Agreement will impose that DND be authorized appropriate use the city-wide emergency services channels held by WFPS on The City of Winnipeg radio system and ensure no cost to The City of Winnipeg.

This Agreement will also ensure WFPS protects confidential information from unauthorized access, use, and disclosure, in accordance with Radio Communication Act R.S.C., 1985, c. R.2.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

An agreement will facilitate the interoperability between the WFPS and DND as it relates to radio communications in the event of an emergency situation. This radio interoperability will allow radio communication between the DND Fire Department and responding units of the WFPS for the purpose of coordination between emergency response agencies. Such coordination may occur during interagency operations, or on-incident communications in accordance with an Incident Communications Plan or joint training exercises.

This Agreement for interoperability will be at no cost to The City of Winnipeg as all associated costs will be the responsibility of DND.

Authorization for DND to use WFPS talk groups is limited to the talk groups and vicinities indicated in the Agreement.

Any previous authorization that may have been granted to DND is void.

HISTORY

The DND is an active allied partner in fire mitigation and life safety on and around property owned by DND and the 17 Wing base, and in cooperation with the Winnipeg Airport Authority Fire Department.

In 2003, DND and WFPS Communications entered into an informal agreement to allow DND access on the WFPS's leased FleetNet radio system talk groups for the purposes of interoperability. DND was supplied with radios by the WFPS for free, including all administrative costs and monthly FleetNet charges.

The current informal agreement has challenges as the system currently does not allow DND appropriate access to talk groups. FleetNet lacks the technical capacity to provide DND with communications specifically relevant to them. As a result, DND has complete access to Fire-related communication, and no access to Paramedic-related communication. The agreement

also does not outline responsibility and control of the radio frequencies at a cost to The City of Winnipeg.

In September 2015, the portable radios held by DND were retrieved by WFPS after a review and inventory of current stock identified a need to secure these radios to maintain regular operations. This was necessary since replacement parts are no longer obtainable through the original vendor. DND was advised at the time that, with the award of a new radio contract and upon implementation, consideration would be given to provide radios to them under new terms and agreements.

With the move to a 700 MHz radio system owned by The City of Winnipeg, a formal Agreement will set the terms for use and understanding between the two agencies to maintain an active radio communication link via portable and/or mobile radio(s) in the event of emergency situations or coordination of joint planning for emergency preparedness. A City-owned system also provides opportunity to offer DND the proposed upgrade with DND paying acquisition costs of the new P25 radios and any charges associated with programming, maintenance and installation to maintain interoperability.

An agreement will facilitate the interoperability between the WFPS and DND as it relates to radio communications in the event of an emergency situation. This radio interoperability will allow radio communication between the DND Fire Department and responding units of the WFPS for the purpose of coordination between emergency response agencies. Such coordination may occur during interagency operations, or on-incident communications in accordance with an Incident Communications Plan or joint training exercises.

Winnipeg Police Service has similar Agreements in place with their allied partners such as the R.C.M.P., CP Police and CN Police.

With the new system in place, WFPS will be required to review all partnerships with its allied agencies to satisfy RP-25 Industry Canada (IC) Policy Principals for Public Safety Radio Interoperability and identify them as a Category 1, 2 or 3 partner. As a result, to align WFPS with new IC standards for the P25 radio system and to ensure there are no further costs to The City of Winnipeg, the recommended course of action is an Agreement between the two agencies.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement **Date:** January 26, 2016

Project Name:

Agreement Between Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service and Department of National Defense for Radio Sys;tem Interoperability

COMMENTS:

The recommendations set out in this report establish an agreement which has no financial impact on the Service.

original signed by

John Hall, ACMA, CGMA
Controller, Finance

CONSULTATION

Kendra Rey, Inspector Winnipeg Police Service Communications

Legal Services (as to legal issues)

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

Reference(s): 01-2b Provide emergency fire/rescue and pre-hospital paramedical response

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service
Division: Communications
Prepared by: Margot Bergstrom, Manager of Communications
Date: January 26, 2016